

**NEW UTILITY PATENT
APPLICATION TRANSMITTAL**

(to be used for new applications only)

Attorney Docket Number

UMB. LITES

First Named Inventor

RUSHING

Total Pages in this Submission

20

APPLICATION ELEMENTS

Notice: Checklist items mentioned under Application Elements section construct a new utility patent application. Please refer to MPEP Sections 506, 601, (37CFR 1.77, 1.53, 35 USC 111, 112, 113) for detailed explanation regarding completeness of an original patent application.

1. ☒ Fee Transmittal Form (prescribed filing fee(s))

2. Specification

☒ Title of the Invention☐ Cross References to Related Applications
(if applicable)☐ Statement Regarding Federally-sponsored
Research/Development (if applicable)☐ Reference to Microfiche Appendix
(if applicable)☒ Background of the Invention☒ Brief Summary of the Invention☒ Brief Description of the Drawings
(if drawings filed)☒ Detailed Description☒ Claim or Claims☒ Abstract of the Disclosure3. ☒ Drawing(s) (when necessary as prescribed by
35 USC 113)4. ☒ Executed Declaration5. Genetic Sequence Submission
(if applicable, all must be included)☐ Paper Copy☐ Computer Readable Copy☐ Statement Verifying Identical Paper and
Computer Readable Copy**ACCOMPANYING APPLICATION PARTS**6. ☐ Assignment Papers7. ☐ Certified Copy of Priority Document(s)
(if foreign priority is claimed)8. ☐ Computer Program in Microfiche9. ☐ English Translation Document (if applicable)10. ☐ Information Disclosure Statement/PTO-1449 ☐ Copies of IDS
Citations11. ☐ Petition Checklist and Accompanying Petition12. ☐ Preliminary Amendment13. ☐ Proprietary Information14. ☒ Return Receipt Postcard15. ☒ Small Entity Statement16. ☐ Additional Enclosures (please identify below).**SIGNATURE OF APPLICANT, ATTORNEY, OR AGENT**Firm
or
Individual name

KAJANE McMANUS

Signature

Kajane McManus

Date

Nov 1, 1999

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Application Number		Class		Independent Claims	
Date of Receipt	Application Type	GAU		Total Claims	
	Filing Date	Foreign Filing License?		Drawing Sheets	
	Small Entity	Foreign Address?		Special Handling?	

Burden Hour Statement: This form is estimated to take 0.2 hours to complete. Time will vary depending upon the needs of the individual case. Any comments on the amount of time you are required to complete this form should be sent to the Chief Information Officer, Patent and Trademark Office, Washington, DC 20231. DO NOT SEND FEES OR COMPLETED FORMS TO THIS ADDRESS. SEND TO: Assistant Commissioner for Patents, Washington, DC 20231.

Applicant or Patentee: John Rushing Attorney's Docket No.: _____
Serial or Patent No.: _____
Filed or Issued: _____
For: Diffuse Lighting Arrangement

VERIFIED STATEMENT (DECLARATION) CLAIMING SMALL ENTITY STATUS
(37 CFR 1.9(f) AND 1.27(b)) - INDEPENDENT INVENTOR

As a below named inventor, I hereby declare that I qualify as an independent inventor as defined in 37 CFR 1.9(c) for purposes of paying reduced fees under section 41(a) and (b) of Title 35, United States Code, to the Patent and Trademark Office with regard to the invention entitled Diffuse Lighting Arrangement described in

- ☒ the specification filed herewith.
☐ application serial no. _____, filed _____.
☐ patent no. _____, issued _____.

I have not assigned, granted, conveyed or licensed and am under no obligation under contract or law to assign, grant, convey or license, any rights in the invention to any person who could not be classified as an independent inventor under 37 CFR 1.9(c) if that person had made the invention, or to any concern which would not qualify as a small business concern under 37 CFR 1.9(d) or a nonprofit organization under 37 CFR 1.9(e).

Each person, concern or organization to which I have assigned, granted, conveyed, or licensed or am under an obligation under contract or law to assign, grant, convey, or license any rights in the invention is listed below

- ☒ no such person, concern or organization
☐ person, concerns or organizations listed below*

*NOTE: Separate verified statements are required from each named person, concern or organization having rights to the invention averring to their status as small entities. (37 CFR 1.27)

FULL NAME: _____

ADDRESS: _____
☐ INDIVIDUAL ☐ SMALL BUSINESS CONCERN ☐ NONPROFIT ORGANIZATION

FULL NAME: _____

ADDRESS: _____
☐ INDIVIDUAL ☐ SMALL BUSINESS CONCERN ☐ NONPROFIT ORGANIZATION

FULL NAME: _____

ADDRESS: _____
☐ INDIVIDUAL ☐ SMALL BUSINESS CONCERN ☐ NONPROFIT ORGANIZATION

I acknowledge the duty to file, in this application or patent, notification of any change in status resulting in loss of entitlement to small entity status prior to paying, or at the time of paying, the earliest of the issue fee or any maintenance fee due after the date on which status as a small entity is no longer appropriate. (37 CFR 1.28(b))

I hereby declare that all statements made herein of my own knowledge are true and that all statements made on information and belief are believed to be true; and further that these statements were made with the knowledge that willful false statements and the like

[illegible]

NAME OF INVENTOR

NAME OF INVENTOR

Signature of Inventor

Signature of Inventor

Signature of Inventor

Date _____

Date _____

Date

Diffuse Lighting Arrangement

Background of the Invention

Field of the Invention

The invention relates to a diffuse lighting arrangement. More particularly, a plurality of strands or strings of miniature lights branch off a power supply cord and may be arranged into a radial array if desired for use on an item such as a patio umbrella or gazebo.

Prior Art

Heretofore, US Patent No. 5,053,931 of John Rushing, the inventor herein, has proposed the provision of a radial array of miniature light strands which feed into a central connection box having means for engaging the strings to a power supply cord.

As will be described in greater detail hereinafter, the diffuse lighting arrangement disclosed herein proposes simplification of the previous embodiment by eliminating the need for the central connection box.

Summary of the Invention

According to the invention there is provided a diffuse lighting arrangement comprising a main power cord having a plug at one end thereof and incorporating a plurality of identical, minimally spaced apart strings of spaced apart miniature lights extending from the power cord.

Further according to the invention there is provided an accessory anchor strap for use when it is desired to anchor the lighting arrangement.

Brief Description of the Drawings

Figure 1 is a perspective view of the diffuse lighting arrangement of the present invention.

Figure 2 is a perspective view of an accessory anchor strap for use in anchoring the lighting arrangement to a support structure such as the shaft of a patio umbrella.

Figure 3 is a perspective view of the anchor strap shown in combination with the lighting arrangement as proposed for use in anchoring the lighting arrangement to the structure.

Description of the Preferred Embodiment

Referring now to the drawings in greater detail there is illustrated in Figure 1 the diffuse lighting arrangement made in accordance with the teachings of the present invention and generally identified by the reference numeral 10.

As illustrated, the arrangement 10 includes a power supply cord 12 which includes a plug 14 at one end 16 thereof for engagement to a power supply (not shown). Preferably, inasmuch as the arrangement 10 is proposed for outdoor use, a circuit protection device 18 is provided on the power supply cord 12 at a position upstream of the plug 14 to prevent the possibility of electrical shock to the user.

Branching off the power supply cord 12 are a plurality of parallel connected strings or wire strands 20 upon each of which a plurality of series connected miniature lights 22 are provided, with the strings 20 in a preferred embodiment, being of approximately equal length.

When the power supply cord 12 is extended horizontally as shown in Figure 1, the strings 20 of lights 22 depend from the power supply cord 12 in parallel configuration.

It is proposed to provide each of the strings 20 with a fairly substantial length, such that, should it be desired to engage the arrangement 10 to the underside of a patio umbrella (not shown) the strings 20 would extend along a substantial portion of the length of each radial support rib of the umbrella, in a radial array from a center support structure 30 such as the shaft 30 (Figure 3) of the umbrella.

Alternatively, it will be understood that the arrangement 10 could be engaged to structure such as deck railing (not shown) with each string 20 of lights 22 extending along support columns for such railing, or the interior of a gazebo roof (not shown).

Turning now to Figure 2, there is illustrated therein an accessory anchor strap 40 for use with the arrangement 10 when it is desired to mount the arrangement 10 to a supporting structure 30.

It will be seen that, in a preferred embodiment, the strap 40 comprises an elongate planar member 40 having cooperating structure on opposite ends 42 and 44 thereof for securing the strap 40 about the shaft 30 of an umbrella.

In the illustrated embodiment, the first end 42 of the strap 40 has a linear array of spaced apart holes 46 therein, while the second end 44 has a plurality of nubs 48 thereon, over which the holes 46 of the first end 42 of the strap 40 engage in snap fit manner.

A plurality of spaced apart restraints 50 are provided along one elongate edge 52 of the strap 40, with one restraint 50 aligning with each of the nubs 48 on the strap 40. At a free end 54 of each restraint 50, there is provided a hole 56 which is engageable over a corresponding nub 48 in snap fit manner when the restraint 50 is folded upwardly over itself to position the hole 56 in the free end 54 thereof over the cooperating nub 48. In this manner, when the restraints 50 are engaged to the nubs 48, they create a series of loops within which the power cord 12, in areas between the spaced apart light strings 20, can be ensnared, as best alluded to in Figure 3.

The strings 20 of lights 22 can then be elevated and engaged to support ribs of a patio umbrella for example, or could be left to drop along the length of a pole, or twisted around a pole, and fixed in the desired position in any suitable known manner.

As described above, the diffuse lighting arrangement 10 of the present invention provides a number of advantages, some of which have been described above and others of which are inherent in the invention. Also, modifications may be proposed to the structures disclosed without departing from the teachings herein. For example, the anchor strap 40 could take various other forms or could be replaced by any other suitable structure or could merely be fixed to and along a support structure which is not tubular. Accordingly the scope of the invention is only to be limited as necessitated by the accompanying claims.

Claims

1. A diffuse lighting arrangement comprising a main power cord having a plug at one end thereof and incorporating a plurality of identical minimally spaced apart strings of spaced apart miniature lights extending from the power cord.
2. The arrangement of claim 1 wherein the strings of lights are substantially identical in length.
3. The arrangement of claim 1 wherein the lights on each string are electrically connected in series.
4. The arrangement of claim 1 wherein each of the light strings electrically connects to the power supply cord in parallel.
5. The arrangement of claim 1 wherein the power supply cord includes a circuit protection device.
6. The arrangement of claim 1 further including an anchor strap which is adjustable in length.
7. The arrangement of claim 6 wherein the strap has two ends which are engageable to each other about a structure.
8. The arrangement of claim 6 wherein the strap has two elongate edges with a plurality of spaced apart restraints depending from one of the elongate edges.

9. The arrangement of claim 8 wherein a free end of each restraint incorporates structure thereon which engages a corresponding one of an equal plurality of cooperating engagement structures which are spaced apart along the anchor strap.
10. For use on a structure including a radial array of support ribs extending from a center thereof, a diffuse lighting arrangement comprising a power supply cord terminating in a plug and having a plurality of identical, minimally spaced apart strings of miniature lights extending therefrom, and an anchor strap engageable at the center of the structure and incorporating a plurality of power supply cord anchoring structures which engage the cord in areas between the spaced apart strings of miniature lights.

Abstract of the Disclosure

The diffuse lighting arrangement comprises a plurality of strands of miniature lights branching off a power supply cord. An accessory anchor strap is provided for use when it is desired to secure the arrangement to a structure such as a patio umbrella or gazebo.

Fig. 2

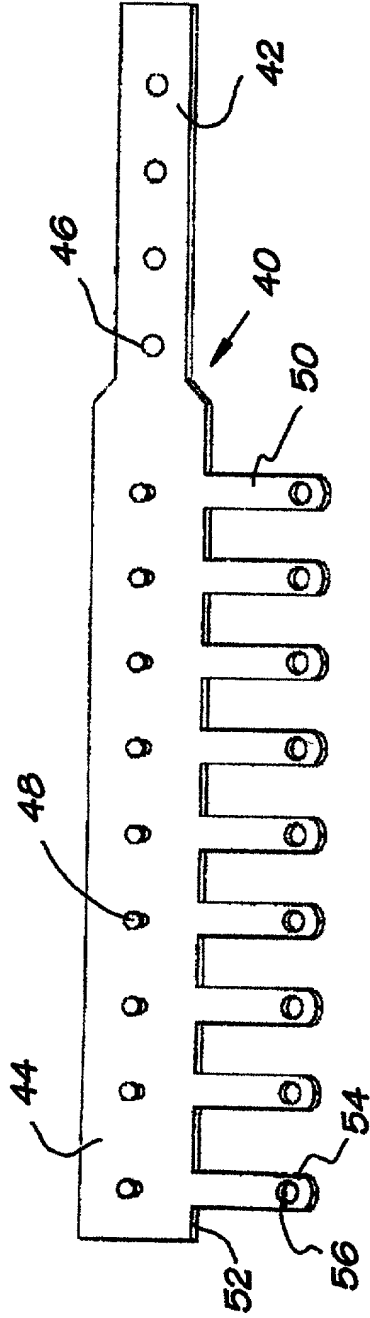


Fig. 1

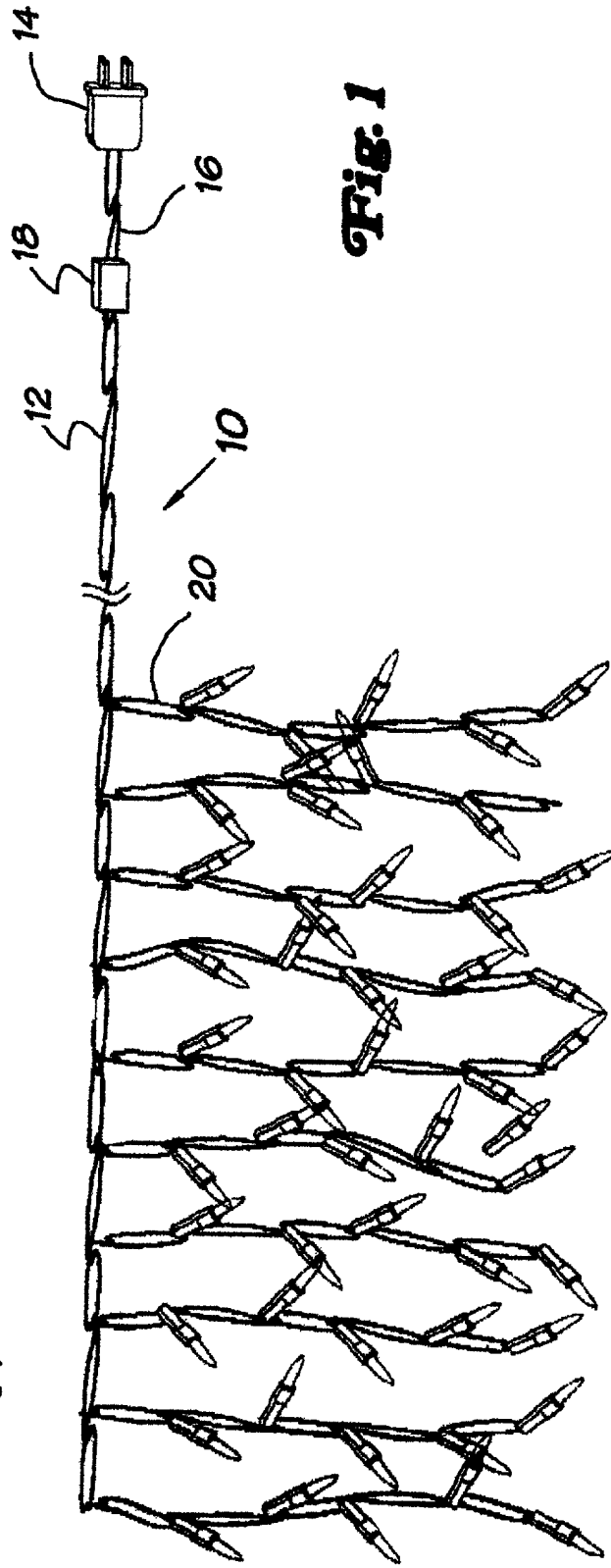
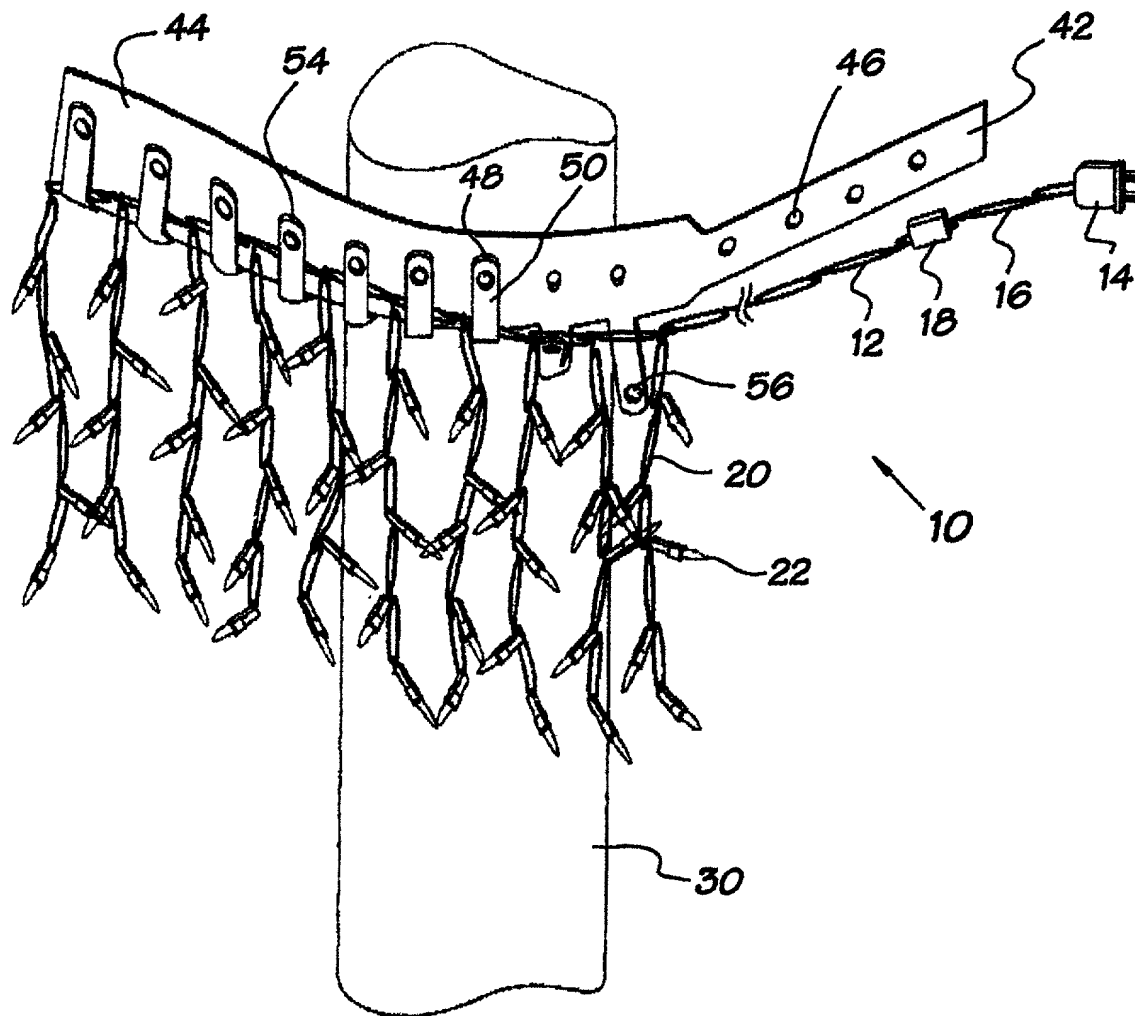


Fig. 3



Attorney Docket No.: Diffuse Lighting Arrangement

UTILITY PATENT APPLICATION DECLARATION AND POWER OF ATTORNEY

As a below named inventor, I hereby declare that:

My residence, post office and citizenship are as stated below next to my name,

I believe I am the original, first and sole inventor (if only one name is listed below) or an original, first and joint inventor (if plural names are listed below) of the subject matter claimed and for which a patent is sought on the invention entitled Diffuse Lighting Arrangement, the specification of which

[X] is attached hereto [] was filed on _____
_____ as Application Serial No. _____ and
was amended on _____ (if applicable).

I hereby state that I have reviewed and understand the contents of the above identified specification, including the claims, as amended by any amendment referred to above.

I acknowledge the duty to disclose information that is known to me to be material to patentability in accordance with Title 37, Code of Federal Regulations, Section 1.56(a).

I hereby claim foreign priority benefits under Title 35, United States Code, Section 119 of any foreign application(s) for patent or inventor's certificate listed below and have also identified below any foreign application for patent or inventor's certificate having a filing date before that of the application on which priority is claimed:

Prior Foreign Application(s):			Priority Claimed	
<u>Number</u>	<u>Country</u>	<u>Day/Month/Year Filed</u>	<u>Yes</u>	<u>No</u>

I hereby claim the benefit under Title 35, United States Code, Section 119 of United States provisional application(s), and/or Section 120 of any United States application(s) listed below and, insofar as the subject matter of each of the claims of this application is not disclosed in the prior United States application in the manner provided by the first paragraph of Title 35, United States Code, Section 112, I acknowledge the duty to disclose material information as defined in Title 37, Code of Federal Regulations, Section 1.56(a) that occurred between the filing date of the prior application and the national or PCT international filing date of this application:

Prior U.S. Application(s):		
<u>Serial No.</u>	<u>Filing Date</u>	<u>Status: Patented, Pending, Abandoned</u>

I hereby declare that all statements made herein of my own knowledge are true and that all statements made on information and belief are believed to be true; and further that these statements were made with the knowledge that willful false statements and the like so made are punishable by fine or imprisonment, or both, under Section 1001 of Title 18 of the United States Code and that such willful false statements may jeopardize the validity of the application or any patent issued thereon.

Before signing this declaration, each person signing must:

1. Review the declaration and verify the correctness of all information therein; and
2. Review the specification and the claims, including any amendments made to the claims.

After the declaration is signed, the specification and claims are not to be altered.

To the inventor(s):

The following is cited in or pertinent to the declaration attached to the accompanying application:

Title 37, Code of Federal Regulations, Section 1.56

Duty to disclose information material to patentability

(a) A patent by its very nature is affected with a public interest. The public interest is being served, and the most effective patent examination occurs when, at the time an application is being examined, the Office is aware of and evaluates the teachings of all information material to patentability. Each individual associated with the filing and prosecution of a patent application has a duty of candor and good faith in dealing with the Office, which includes a duty to disclose to the Office all information known to that individual to be material to patentability as defined in this section. The duty to disclose information exists with respect to each pending claim until the claim is canceled or withdrawn from consideration, or the application becomes abandoned. Information material to the patentability of a claim that is canceled or withdrawn from consideration need not be submitted if the information is not material to the patentability of any claim remaining under consideration in the application. There is no duty to submit information which is not material to the patentability of any existing claim. The duty to disclose all information known to be material to patentability is deemed to be satisfied if all information known to be material to patentability of any claim issued in a patent was cited by the Office or submitted to the Office in the manner prescribed by Sections 1.97(b)-(d) and 1.98. However, no patent will be granted on an application in connection with which fraud on the Office was practiced or attempted or the duty of disclosure was violated through bad faith or intentional misconduct. The Office encourages applicants to carefully examine:

- (1) prior art cited in search reports of a foreign patent office in a counterpart application, and
- (2) the closest information over which individuals associated with the filing or prosecution of a patent application believe any pending claim patentably defines, to make sure that any material information contained therein is disclosed to the Office.

Title 35, United States Code, Section 101

Inventions patentable

Whoever invents or discovers any new and useful process, machine, manufacture, or composition of matter, or any new and useful improvement thereof, may obtain a patent therefor, subject to the conditions and requirements of this title.

Title 35, United States Code, Section 102

Conditions for patentability; novelty and loss of right to patent

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless --

(a) the invention was known or used by others in this country, or patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country before the invention thereof by the applicant for patent, or

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States, or

(c) he has abandoned the invention, or

(d) the invention was first patented or caused to be patented, or was the subject of an inventor's certificate, by the applicant or his legal representatives or assigns in a foreign country prior to the date of the application for patent in this country on an application for patent or inventor's certificate filed more than twelve months before the filing of the application in the United States, or

(e) the invention was described in a patent granted on an application for patent by another filed in the United States before the invention thereof by the applicant for patent, or on an international application by another who has fulfilled the requirements of paragraphs (1), (2), and (4) of section 371(c) of this title before the invention thereof by the applicant for patent, or

(f) he did not himself invent the subject matter sought to be patented, or

(g) before the applicant's invention thereof the invention was made in this country by another who had not abandoned, suppressed, or concealed it. In determining priority of invention there shall be considered not only the respective dates of conception and reduction to practice of the invention, but also the reasonable diligence of one who was first to conceive and last to reduce to practice, from a time prior to conception by the other.

Title 35, United States Code, Section 103

Conditions for patentability; non-obvious subject matter

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negatived by the manner in which the invention was made.

. . . .

(c) Subject matter developed by another person, which qualifies as prior art only under subsection (f) or (g) of section 102 of this title, shall not preclude patentability under this section where the subject matter and the claimed invention were, at the time the invention was made, owned by the same person or subject to an obligation of assignment to the same person.

Title 35, United States Code, Section 112 (in part)

Specification

The specification shall contain a written description of the invention, and of the manner and process of making and using it, in such full, clear, concise and exact terms as to enable any person skilled in the art to which it pertains, or with which it is most nearly connected, to make and use the same, and shall set forth the best mode contemplated by the inventor of carrying out his invention.

Title 35, United States Code, Section 119

Benefit of earlier filing date in foreign country; right of priority

An application for patent for an inventor filed in this country by any person who has, or whose legal representatives or assigns have, previously regularly filed an application for a patent for the same inventor in a foreign country which affords similar privileges in the case of applications filed in the United States or to citizens of the United States, shall have the same effect as the same application would have if filed in this country on the date on which the application for patent for the same invention was first filed in such foreign country, if the application in this country is filed within twelve months from the earliest date on which such foreign application was filed; but no patent shall be granted on any application for patent for an invention which had been patented or described in a printed publication in any country more than one year before the date of the actual filing of the application in this country, or which had been in public use or on sale in this country more than one year prior to such filing.

Title 35, United States Code, Section 120

Benefit of earlier filing date in the United States

An application for patent for an invention disclosed in the manner provided by the first paragraph of section 112 of this title in an application previously filed in the United States, or as provided by section 363 of this title, which is filed by an inventor or inventors named in the previously filed application shall have the same effect, as to such invention, as though filed on the date of the prior application, if filed before the patenting or abandonment of or termination of proceedings on the first application or an application similarly entitled to the benefit of the filing date of the first application and if it contains or is amended to contain a specific reference to the earlier filed application.

Please read carefully before signing the Declaration attached to the accompanying Application.

If you have any questions, please contact us.